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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov

1102 Lincoln Street  
Potter, NE 69156-0068

January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am a long-time Microsoft supporter. As such, I am pleased with the settlement reached last November with the department of Justice. The settlement is a vital end to the litigation process that has crippled the IT industry in recent years.

The details of the settlement are complex. Microsoft has agreed to many terms that will increase competitor's ability to access the Windows' operating system. First, Microsoft has agreed to disclose the internal interfaces of its software design. This allows developers to substitute their software in place of the Microsoft network. The terms of the settlement will allow users to erase separate aspects from the operating system, such as Explorer or Media Player.

This settlement is in the public interest. It provides an opportunity for the IT industry to rebuild itself. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Wills

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